

ARTICLE 409 (SIGN AND GATE INSTALLATION PLAN)

PROJECT NO. 2035-006

Purpose

The *Sign and Gate Installation Plan* meets the requirements of Article 409 of the license and has been developed in concert with Forest Service Condition 106. The purpose of this plan is to identify the locations of gates and signage within the project area, in particular those located at Forest Development Road 359. This plan also addresses the procedure and dates for opening and closing the Winiger Ridge Recreation Area.

FERC Requirements

1. Location and Design of Gates and Signs

The locations of gates and signage within the Gross Reservoir project area have been identified on the Sign and Gate Location Map (*see page 3*). Site-specific details regarding gate and sign locations can be found in Article 416 (*Recreation Management Plan*).

Denver Water will implement a permanent uniform signage program at Gross Reservoir. The proposed signage program for the reservoir includes two entry signs and ten trailhead or regulatory signs. The entry signs (*see Figure 1, page 4*) will be located at the North Shore parking lot and at the intersection of Gross Dam Road and Haul Road. These signs will include general reservoir and Denver Water information, in addition to an overall Gross Reservoir site map. The trailhead and regulatory signs (*see Figure 2, page 4*) will include a map of that particular trail and a description of Denver Water and/or U.S. Forest Service regulations. In addition to trailheads, regulatory signs will be provided at all boat launch locations. These signs will include a map of the reservoir and information regarding: warnings, closures, required safety equipment and Gross Reservoir boating regulations (*see the Recreation Management Plan for specific site descriptions*). Directional signage will be provided at major decision points along the reservoir access roads.

Locked vehicle closure gates (*see Figure 3, page 5*) will be installed at all existing roads that are closed to private vehicles. In addition, a vehicle closure gate will be installed at Forest Development Road 359 for seasonal elk closures. This gate will include a trail access gate (*see Figure 4, page 5*) for non-motorized trail users during the winter elk closure.

The proposed gate and fence improvements at Gross Reservoir were selected with wildlife in mind. None of the proposed designs will impede the movement of wildlife.

2. Winiger Ridge Elk Closure Schedule

The Winiger Ridge area provides winter range for a significant elk population. For this reason and for resource protection, the area is closed during the winter and early spring.

The dates established by the U.S. Forest Service for the Winiger Ridge elk closure run from December 1 to approximately May 15. Depending upon road conditions, the U.S. Forest Service may elect to shorten or extend the May 15 opening date. This decision will be made at the discretion of the Boulder Ranger District Supervisor.

3. Implementation Schedule

Once the *Sign and Gate Installation Plan* is approved, Denver Water will coordinate with the U.S. Forest Service to prioritize projects and begin implementation. Complete implementation of the *Plan* is anticipated to take five years.